

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

CINCPAC PRIORITY

S E C R E T STATE 158208

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, MPOL, NZ, SN

SUBJECT: NEW ZEALAND MANAGEMENT OF SINGAPORE NAVAL
FACILITIES

REF: A. STATE 146312

B. LONDON 7941

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

1. NZ AMBASSADOR WHITE PRESENTED FOLLOWING PROPOSAL IN
WRITING TO EA ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB ON JUNE 27. BEGIN
QUOTE:

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CONSIDERATION IS CURRENTLY BEING GIVEN TO SEPARATING THE
TWO PARTS TO THE QUESTION -- THE OIL DEPOT AND THE
BERTHAGE FACILITIES THIS WOULD INVOLVE NEW ZEALAND'S
RENTING SUFFICIENT TANKS IN THE OIL DEPOT FROM THE

SINGAPOREANS TO SERVE UNITED STATES, NEW ZEALAND AND POSSIBLY AUSTRALIAN REQUIREMENTS. (PRESUMABLY THE UNITED STATES WOULD KEEP THE TANKS FILLED.) AN ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE FOR THE BRITISH TO RENT THE TANKS FOR THIS PURPOSE. OFFICIALS WOULD BE PREPARED TO RECOMMEND TO MINISTERS WHICHEVER ALTERNATIVE PROVES, ON INVESTIGATION, TO BE THE MOST ECONOMICAL AND EFFICIENT.

IT IS PROPOSED THAT THE BERTHING FACILITIES THEMSELVES SHOULD BE MANAGED BY THE SINGAPOREANS UNDER AGREED ARRANGEMENTS. END QUOTE.

2. AMBASSADOR COMMENTED THAT GNZ WOULD PREFER THAT GOS WOULD DO WHAT WAS NEEDED BUT THAT GNZ HAD BEEN ASKED BY BOTH GOS AND USG TO DO IT. HE REMARKED THAT GOS DIDN'T "GIVE A DAMN" ABOUT THE BERTHS AND THAT ONLY THING THAT BOTHERED GOS WAS "OIL PART."

3. AMBASSADOR SAID THAT GNZ WOULD HAVE TO GO BACK TO THE GOS NEXT WEEK ON THIS MATTER AND WOULD LIKE TO KNOW US REACTION IN ADVANCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. WE AGREED TO TRY AND RESPOND TO GNZ PROPOSAL ASAP.

4. DEPARTMENT, DOD, AND US NAVY HAVE STUDIED NEW ZBALAND PROPOSAL IN PARA ONE. NEW ZEALAND MANAGEMENT OF FUEL DEPOT WITH SINGAPORE MANAGEMENT OF BERTHING FACILITIES DOES NOT APPEAR TO OFFER SIGNIFICANT ADVANTAGES, OR TO OFFER DEGREE OF LONG TERM ASSURANCE, INCLUDING ACCESS TO NPW BERTH, AFFORDED BY UK ARRANGEMENT PRESENTED IN LONDON 7941. SINCE NEW ZEALAND PROPOSAL WOULD ONLY PARTIALLY SATISFY USN REQUIREMENTS AND THIRD COUNTRY NEGOTIATIONS WOULD STILL BE REQUIRED ON BERTHING, OUR PREFERENCE WOULD BE TO ACCEPT UK ARRANGEMENT AS BASIS FOR USN ACCESS TO FACILITIES. FYI: ONE ADDITIONAL FACTOR IN USG THINKING IS CONTINUING PRESSURES IN NZ TO PULL FORCES OUT OF SINGAPORE. END FYI.

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5. DEPARTMENT HAS INFORMED NEW ZEALAND EMBASSY THAT, WHILE IT APPRECIATES ATTENTION GONZ HAS GIVEN TO THIS QUESTION, GONZ PROPOSAL WOULD NOT APPEAR TO MEET USN REQUIREMENTS AS SATISFACTORILY AS AN ALTERNATIVE ARRANGEMENT BEING WORKED OUT WITH SINGAPORE BY THE UK. THEREFORE, USG INTENDS TO PURSUE ASSOCIATION WITH PROPOSED UK-SINGAPORE ARRANGEMENT IN DISCUSSIONS WITH HMG.

6. FOR LONDON: REQUEST YOU INFORM FCO THAT USG IS NO LONGER PURSUING PROPOSAL THAT NEW ZEALAND ASSUME MANAGEMENT OF NAVAL FACILITIES IN SINGAPORE. YOU SHOULD EXPRESS OUR INTEREST IN PROPOSED UK ARRANGEMENT WITH GOS. YOU ALSO SHOULD ASCERTAIN EXTENT TO WHICH

UK HAS INFORMED GONZ OF ARRANGEMENT AS DESCRIBED IN LONDON 7941. WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE ANY ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ON HOW SOLID UK PROPOSAL DESCRIBED IN LONDON 7941 MAY BE, INCLUDING ANY FURTHER DETAILS, IF KNOWN, AS TO WHAT MIGHT CONSTITUTE QUOTE REASONABLE NOTICE UNQUOTE FOR ACCESS TO BERTHS.

7. FOR SINGAPORE: DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS ON ARRANGEMENT PROPOSED IN LONDON 7941.

8. FOR WELLINGTON: DEPARTMENT RECOMMENDS THAT YOU NOT TAKE INITIATIVE IN FURTHER DISCUSSING THIS ISSUE WITH GONZ IN WELLINGTON. SISCO

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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